

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-09

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 160203Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1046
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6277

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH, TW
SUBJECT: DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG

1. AT MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM AMBASSADOR, PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO SAID HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN MAINLAND CHINA AS THE RESULT OF MAO TSE-TUNG'S DEATH, AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. HE FORESAW POSSIBILITY OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S RETURN TO A POSITION OF POWER, PARTICULARLY IF NEW LEADERSHIP GROUP PROVES UNABLE TO CONTROL THE ARMED FORCES. THE FACT THAT ANTI-TENG CRITICISM CONTINUES IS EVIDENCE, IN CCK'S OPINION, OF TENG'S CONTINUING POTENTIAL.

2. THE PREMIER CITED THE RECALL OF ALL CADRES, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, FROM VACATION AND THE CURRENT STATE OF ALERT AS EVIDENCE OF PEKING'S CONCERN ABOUT UNREST, PARTICULARLY IN FUKIEN PROVINCE WHERE THE LEADING MILITARY COMMANDER HAD BEEN KILLED NOT TOO LONG AGO.

3. AS FOR THE ROC, IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, IT WILL LIMIT ITS ACTION TO STEPPING UP ITS PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AGAINST THE MAINLAND; FOR EXAMPLE, MORE BALLOONS WILL BE LAUNCHED.

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4. COMMENT: PREMIER DID NOT EXHIBIT ANY ELATION OVER MAO'S

DEMISE. NOR DID HE GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE FELT THAT ROC'S
FORTUNES WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THE EVENT.
UNGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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